

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. Claims 11-48 are allowed, claims 1 and 5-10 stand rejected, and claims 2-4 are objected to. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10 and has cancelled claim 2. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

1. Claims 1 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stavely et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,372).

The Examiner stated that claims 2-4 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Office Action at page 3. Applicant has, instead, amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2 and has consequently cancelled claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Applicant has amended claims 3 and 4 to alter their dependency. Thus, because claims 3 and 4 now depend from claim 1, claims 3 and 4 are also in allowable condition.

Similarly, claim 5-7 depend directly and indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, claims 5-7 include all of the limitations of claim 1. Because claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, it follows that claims 5-7 are also patentable for at least similar reasons, based on their dependency and the limitations within the claims.

In addition, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 10 to include the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5-10 under 102(e) is respectfully requested.



CONCLUSION

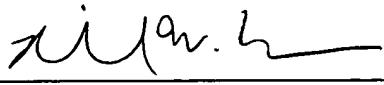
For these reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as presently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in allowable condition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4566.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:


Richard W. Erwine
Registration No. 41,737

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

